

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,661,454 to Hwang et al. (hereinafter "Hwang"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,986,700 to Wakui (hereinafter "Wakui").

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

The rejection of claims 7, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Hwang in view of Wakui, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 9, which subject matter the Office Action stated was allowable over the prior art. *See* Office Action paragraphs 7 and 8. Claim 9 is cancelled. The amendment does not introduce any new matter. Therefore, amended claim 7 distinguishes over the prior art, as do claims 8 and 10 which depend therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 7, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hwang patent in view of the Wakui patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

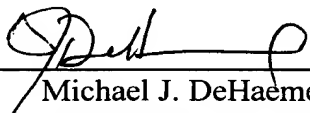
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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Respectfully submitted,

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